BRIEFER ARTICLES.

A red-seeded dandelion in New England.—In June, 1892, my attention was called, by Mr. Chas. G. Atkins of East Orland, Maine, to a red-seeded dandelion, which grows abundantly in northwestern Hancock county. Mr. Atkins noted that the red seed were invariably associated with sparse foliage, and deeply cut leaves, and that the outer involucral bracts were not reflexed as in the ordinary Taraxacum. The color of the flowers, too, is a striking character as evidenced by Mr. Atkins's note, "where the two sorts were intermingled in a field I could (at a distance of several rods) detect the red-seeded sort by the brighter yellow of the flowers."

In May, 1894, Mr. N. T. Kidder, and others interested in the Flora of the Boston Metropolitan Parks, found the same form growing about the waterfall on Beaver Brook, at Waverly, Mass., and later the author detected it in some quantity with Cinna pendula, Eatonia Pennsylvanica, and Woodsia Ilvensis, in rocky woods near Pease Pond in Wilton, Maine.

During the present season it has been found in great abundance about Cambridge, Mass. Messrs. Emile F. Williams, Alfred S. Higgins and the author have found it plentiful in dry fields about Winchester, Mass., and in great abundance on the west ledges and cliffs in "Shaker Glen," East Lexington. In "Shaker Glen" the plant is associated with Anemonella thalictroides, Aquilegia Canadensis, Cardamine rhomboidea, Oryzopsis asperifolia, Adiantum pedatum, Cystopteris fragilis, and other species which point to the possibility that the Taraxacum is indigenous. In a recent visit to Kennebunkport, Maine, Mr. Warren H. Manning and the author found the plant everywhere on the ledges, both on the main land and on the islands off Cape Porpoise.

In all these stations no forms have been detected which show any intergradation with Taraxacum officinale, and until such forms may be found it seems desirable to follow DeCandolle, Liebmann and others in considering this a distinct species, rather than to give it varietal rank as has been done by Koch, Hooker, and Karsten. The following description and notes will summarise the points of distinction already suggested.

TARAXACUM ERYTHROSPERMUM Andrz. in Bess. Fl. Podal. cont. II. n. 1586. (*T. officinale* Weber, var. *glaucescens* Koch). Leaves dull green, glabrous, deeply runcinate-pinnatifid or even pinnately divided,

with narrowly triangular or lanceolate segments: scapes glabrous or very sparingly pubescent above, bearing small heads scarcely an inch across: involucral bracts glaucous, the outer lanceolate, 3–5 lines long, horizontally spreading or sub-erect, one or two with a corniculate appendage below the tip; the inner bracts linear, 6–9 lines long, nearly all with a corniculate appendage ½ line or so below the whitish tip: flowers 70–80, sulphur-yellow, the outer ligules conspicuously purplish without: achenes spindle shaped, bright red or reddish brown, the body 1½ lines long, sharply muricate above, gradually contracted to a narrowly-conical apex ¾ line long; the filiform beak barely twice the length of the achene, and with the pappus dirty white: fruiting receptacle rarely more than ¼ inch broad.—In dry or rocky places, Hartford, Maine, 1886 (J. C. Parlin); northwestern Hancock county, Maine, June, 1892 (C. G. Atkins); Waverly, Mass., May, 1894 (N. T. Kidder and others); Wilton, Maine, August, 1894 (M. L. Fernald); Lexington and Winchester, Mass., May, 1895 (E. F. Williams, A. S. Higgins and M. L. Fernald); Kennebunkport, Maine, May, 1895 (W. H. Manning and M. L. Fernald); and Cambridge, Mass.

The species seems well distinguished from *T. officinale*, which has larger and less cut leaves; larger, orange-yellow heads, with many more flowers (the specimens examined show from 170–190 in a head); involucral bracts larger, not glaucous, the outer conspicuously reflexed, and rarely with corniculate appendages; receptacle broader; achenes broader, less tapering above, olive green or greenish brown; the beak two or three times as long as the achene, and the pappus a purer white.—MERRITT LYNDON FERNALD, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Gilbreth Botanical Collection.—One of the most valuable and interesting gifts which have recently been presented to Radcliffe College is that of Mrs. Martha Bunker Gilbreth of Brookline, consisting of the botanical collections made by her daughter, Miss Mary E. Gilbreth, who died not long since. On the occasion of the formal presentation of the gift to the college—an occasion which drew together a large number of instructors, and representatives of the College Club, Idler Club, Home and Field Club, and other societies of which Miss Gilbreth was a member when she was a student in the college—Professor George L. Goodale, who made the presentation address, described the extent and value of Miss Gilbreth's collection and the relation which part of it bears to the great scientific problems of the time, and the light it throws upon them, prefacing his statement with a brief account of her life.

The part of her collection specially referred to by Professor Goodale is that illustrating the dissemination of plants by means of their seeds. . . .